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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/688,426	MUTSUNO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kieu D. Vu	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to The Amendment filed on 06/14/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 7-8, 17-19, 24-25, 30-35, and 38 (renumbered as 1-16).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in telephone interviews with Applicant's representative Walter Kim on 06/22/07.

3. The title of the application has been amended as follows:

"Information processing device and method for outputting guidance information"

4. The claims have been amended as follows:

Claims 20, 21, 22, 23: canceled.

Claims 26, 27, 28, 29: canceled.

Claim 34: line 1, replace "any one of Claims 18 to 33" with "claim 18"

Claim 37: canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-2, 7-8, 17-19, 24-25, 30-35, and 38 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Examiner has carefully considered the independent claims 1, 7, 18, 24, 30, and 35.

Mori teaches an information processing device included in an information processing apparatus and outputting guidance information for an operation performed for the information processing apparatus by a user (operation guide on how to execute a required operation, col. 2, lines 21-41, lines 62-65), the information processing device

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comprising: history information storing means for storing operation history information unique to the user (holding the proficiency level of each user to each operation, line 66 of col. 2 to line 2 of col. 3); operation identification means for identifying the type of operation performed by the user (col. 3, lines 1-2); guidance information storing means for storing at least one piece of guidance information on the operation (help documentations, col. 3, lines 2-4); selection means for selecting appropriate guidance information from the guidance information storing means on the basis of the operation history information on the operation unique to the user (help presentation is selected based on the proficiency level of the user for the operation, col. 3, lines 6-10) and output means for outputting the selected guidance information (help documentation is displayed at the display unit, col. 2, lines 40-41).

In the same field of tracking user operation and providing assistance, Asch teaches a help system for tracking and recording all operations (movements) of a particular user, which includes operation on troubleshooting a problem (see [0031], [0033], [0046]).

However, neither Mori nor Asch, alone or in combination, fairly teaches or suggests “wherein, when the number of times the user has performed the operation is smaller than a first threshold or when the number of times the user has performed the operation is larger than the first threshold but the time difference between the current time information and the time information of the operation history is longer than a second threshold, the selection means selects the detailed guidance information, and wherein, when the number of times the user has performed the operation is larger than

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the first threshold and the time difference of the operation is shorter than the second threshold, the selection means selects the simple guidance information" in specific combinations as recited in claims 1, 18, and 35.

Similarly, neither Mori nor Asch, alone or in combination, fairly teaches or suggests "wherein, when the number of times the user has experienced the trouble is smaller than a first threshold or when the number of times the user has experienced the trouble is larger than the first threshold but the time difference between the current time information and the time information of the operation history is longer than a second threshold, the selection means selects the detailed guidance information, and wherein, when the number of times the user has experienced the trouble is larger than the first threshold and the time difference of the operation is shorter than the second threshold, the selection means selects the simple guidance information" in specific combinations as recited in claims 7 and 24.

Independent claim 30 and dependent claims are allowed for similar reasons set forth above.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kieu D. Vu. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM at 571-272-4057.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached at 571-272-4048.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

571-273-8300

and / or:

571-273-4057 (use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper / amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kieu D. Vu
Primary Examiner